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APPARATUS, METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR DETERMINING ESTIMATED IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

1. Technical Field:

5   The present invention is directed to an improved distributed computer system. More particularly, the present invention provides apparatus, methods and computer programs for determining an estimated impact of proposed legislation.

10

2. Description of Related Art:

Software applications for determining tax liability based on a current status of the tax code and a user's financial data are generally known in the art. With such
15 applications, a user may, with the aid of a computer, generate necessary forms for filing an income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service. However, these applications do not provide any ability for a user to determine what his/her tax liability may be under
20 proposed changes to the tax code. Thus, it would be beneficial to have an apparatus and method for determining a user's estimated tax liability under proposed tax legislation so that the user may determine whether or not to support the proposed legislation and/or
25 the proponent of the legislation.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides apparatus and methods by which the impact on a user of a proposed change in legislation may be determined. The present invention calculates a change in a user's state based on legislation data downloaded from a policy maker system. Based on the user's change in state, an electronic mail message may be generated and sent to appropriate parties in order to voice the user's support or non-support of the proposed legislation as well as provide the appropriate parties with information about how the proposed legislation will affect the user.

For example, the present invention may be used to calculate a user's estimated tax liability under proposed changes to a tax code. The calculated estimated tax liability can then be compared to a previous year's tax liability for the user. Based on the comparison, an estimated change in tax liability may be determined so that the user may be informed of how the proposed tax legislation will affect him/her. An electronic mail message may then be generated and sent to proponents of the proposed tax legislation, the user's elected representatives, and appropriate regulatory agencies in order to voice the user's support or non-support of the proposed tax legislation.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features believed characteristic of the invention are set forth in the appended claims. The

5   invention itself, however, as well as a preferred mode of use, further objectives and advantages thereof, will best be understood by reference to the following detailed description of an illustrative embodiment when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

10   **Figure 1** is an exemplary block diagram illustrating a network data processing system according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an exemplary block diagram illustrating a server device according to one embodiment of the

15   present invention;

Figure 3 is an exemplary block diagram illustrating a client device according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 is an exemplary block diagram illustrating

20   data flow between primary components of the network data processing system of **Figure 1** according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a flowchart outlining an exemplary operation of the present invention when determining an

25   estimated tax liability based on proposed tax legislation.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The present invention provides a mechanism by which the impact of proposed legislation on a user may be
5   calculated and provided to a user for his/her information. Based on the calculation, the user may decide to either support or not support the proposed legislation. Furthermore, the user may have an electronic mail message automatically generated indicating the user's support, or
10 lack thereof, for the proposed legislation along with an indication of the impact of the proposed legislation on the user.

While the present invention may be applied to any type of legislation whose impact on a user may be
15 quantitatively determined, the present invention will be described in terms of a preferred embodiment directed to the determination of the impact of proposed tax legislation on a user's estimated tax liability. It should be appreciated that this embodiment is chosen only
20 for illustrative purposes and is not meant to be limiting in any way. It should also be appreciated that the present invention may be applied to various types of proposed legislation, such as legislation affecting Medicaid, IRA contributions, Thrift Savings Plan
25 contributions, real estate taxes, school district legislation, funding for city road maintenance, and the like.

With reference now to the figures, **Figure 1** depicts a pictorial representation of a network of data processing
30 systems in which the present invention may be implemented. Network data processing system **100** is a network of computers in which the present invention may be

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implemented. Network data processing system **100** contains
a network **102**, which is the medium used to provide
communications links between various devices and computers
connected together within network data processing system

5 **100**. Network **102** may include connections, such as wire,
wireless communication links, or fiber optic cables.

In the depicted example, client devices **108-112** are
connected to network **102** along with tax policy server **104**
and tax policy maker system **106**. Although a "tax" policy

10 server **104** and "tax" policy maker system **106** are depicted
in the Figures, as mentioned above, the present invention
is not limited to an application to proposed tax change
legislation. Other types of policy servers **104** and policy
maker systems **106** may be used with the present invention

15 depending on the particular implementation of the
invention. For purposes of illustration, however, the
preferred embodiments of the present invention will be
described in terms of tax policy servers **104** and tax
policy maker systems **106**.

20 The client devices **108-112** may be, for example,
personal computers, network computers, personal digital
assistants, portable computing devices, or the like. In
the depicted example, server **104** provides data, such as
files, web pages, operating system images, and

25 applications to client devices **108-112**. Client devices
108-112 are clients to server **104**. Network data
processing system **100** may include additional servers,
clients, service providers and other devices not shown.

In the depicted example, network data processing

30 system **100** is the Internet with network **102** representing a
worldwide collection of networks and gateways that use the
TCP/IP suite of protocols to communicate with one another.

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At the heart of the Internet is a backbone of high-speed data communication lines between major nodes or host computers, consisting of thousands of commercial, government, educational and other computer systems that

5   route data and messages. Of course, network data processing system **100** also may be implemented as a number of different types of networks, such as for example, an intranet, a local area network (LAN), or a wide area network (WAN).

10   **Figure 1** is intended as an example, and not as an architectural limitation for the present invention. The tax policy maker system **106** is a computer system associated with an entity responsible for generating and promulgating proposed tax legislation. For example, the

15   tax policy maker system **106** may be a system associated with a political candidate's campaign office, a legislative body's home page, a web site associated with the Internal Revenue Service, or the like. The tax policy maker system **106** provides information identifying proposed

20   legislation that affects the tax code or the way in which taxes are calculated. While only one tax policy maker system **106** is depicted in **Figure 1** for simplicity, in actuality there may be many different tax policy maker systems **106**. Alternatively, the tax policy maker system

25   **106** may provide information on more than one piece of proposed tax legislation.

       The tax policy server **104** is a server that maintains information regarding the various pieces of proposed tax legislation compiled from one or more tax policy maker

30   systems **106**. The tax policy information may be entered by an administrator of the tax policy server **104**, for example, based on the proposed tax legislation information

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obtainable from the tax policy maker system **106**. The tax
policy information may address individual features of
proposed tax legislation, an entire piece of proposed tax
legislation, or pieces of various proposed tax
5 legislation.

The tax policy information stored on the tax policy
server **104** is preferably stored in a format that is
recognizable and parsable by an estimated tax liability
determination device associated with the various client
10 devices **108-112**. When a user of a client device, such as
client device **108**, wishes to determine how a piece of
proposed tax legislation will affect the amount of taxes
that he/she will be required to pay, the user may log onto
an appropriate web site supported by the tax policy server
15 **104**.

Upon logging onto the tax policy server's web site,
the user may select the particular proposed tax
legislation, or portions thereof, that he/she is
interested in and download the tax policy information for
20 that proposed tax legislation to his/her client device
108. The downloaded tax policy information is then used
by an estimated tax liability determination device
associated with the client device **108** to estimate what the
user's tax liability will be under the proposed tax
25 legislation. This tax liability may then be compared to
the user's last year tax liability to determine the
relative affect on the user of the proposed tax
legislation.

Based on the relative affect on the user, the user
30 may decide to contact the tax policy maker to voice
his/her opinion regarding the proposed tax legislation,
either for or against it. The present invention provides

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a mechanism by which the user may select an option for
contacting one or more appropriate entities, such as tax
policy makers, to voice his/her opinion regarding the
proposed tax legislation. The present invention may
5   automatically generate an electronic mail message that is
automatically addressed to the proponent of the proposed
tax legislation, the user's congressman (or other
pertinent elected official), and the tax regulatory
agency, and other appropriate entities. The particular
10 entities to which the electronic mail message is address
do not have to be government entities and may be, for
example, watchdog groups, commercial entities, other
users, or any other entity that may be interested in
knowing the impact of the proposed legislation on the
15 user.

Furthermore the content of the message may be
automatically generated based on a user's selection of
whether he/she is for or against the proposed tax
legislation. Alternatively, if the relative affect of the
20 tax legislation on the user is determined to increase the
user's tax liability, it may be automatically assumed that
the user is against the proposed tax legislation whereas
if the user's tax liability is reduce, it may
automatically be assumed that the user is for the proposed
25 tax legislation. In addition, the present invention may
automatically import data identifying the relative affect
of the proposed legislation on the user's tax liability
into the body of the electronic mail message.

The one or more entities that receive the electronic
30 mail message may, for example, log the electronic mail
message as a separate message, or may accumulate the
information in the electronic mail message with other
electronic mail messages already received. The

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accumulation of the information in the electronic mail message with other electronic mail messages already received may be performed in an anonymous or semi-anonymous manner by eliminating or partially
5   eliminating identifying information from the data maintained by the system associated with the one or more entities.

For example, the tax policy maker system may receive the electronic mail message, extract the tax liability
10   information from the electronic mail message and add it to tax liability information already obtained by the tax policy maker system. In this way, a proponent of the proposed tax legislation may obtain and accumulate data from users indicating the way in which the proposed tax
15   legislation will affect the users. Thus, the proponent may use this accumulated data to support the proposed tax legislation or as a mechanism for changing identifying areas in which the proposed tax legislation should be changed.

20   Thus, the present invention provides a mechanism by which a user may determine the estimated affect of proposed tax legislation on his/her tax liability. Furthermore, the present invention provides a mechanism by which a user may automatically generate an electronic mail
25   message to the proponent of the proposed tax legislation, the user's elected officials, and the tax regulatory agency, indicating the user's opinion regarding the proposed tax legislation and the estimated affect on his/her tax liability.

30   Referring to **Figure 2**, a block diagram of a data processing system that may be implemented as a server, such as tax policy server **104** or tax policy maker system **106** may be resident, is depicted in accordance with a

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preferred embodiment of the present invention. Data
processing system **200** may be a symmetric multiprocessor
(SMP) system including a plurality of processors **202** and
204 connected to system bus **206**. Alternatively, a single
5   processor system may be employed. Also connected to
system bus **206** is memory controller/cache **208**, which
provides an interface to local memory **209**. I/O bus bridge
210 is connected to system bus **206** and provides an
interface to I/O bus **212**. Memory controller/cache **208** and
10   I/O bus bridge **210** may be integrated as depicted.

      Peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus bridge
214 connected to I/O bus **212** provides an interface to PCI
local bus **216**. A number of modems may be connected to PCI
bus **216**. Typical PCI bus implementations will support
15   four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors.
Communications links to network computers **108-112** in
Figures 1A and **1B** may be provided through modem **218** and
network adapter **220** connected to PCI local bus **216** through
add-in boards.

20   Additional PCI bus bridges **222** and **224** provide
interfaces for additional PCI buses **226** and **228**, from
which additional modems or network adapters may be
supported. In this manner, data processing system **200**
allows connections to multiple network computers. A
25   memory-mapped graphics adapter **230** and hard disk **232** may
also be connected to I/O bus **212** as depicted, either
directly or indirectly.

      Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate
that the hardware depicted in **Figure 2** may vary. For
30   example, other peripheral devices, such as optical disk
drives and the like, also may be used in addition to or in
place of the hardware depicted. The depicted example is

not meant to imply architectural limitations with respect to the present invention.

The data processing system depicted in **Figure 2** may be, for example, an IBM RISC/System 6000 system, a product

5   of International Business Machines Corporation in Armonk, New York, running the Advanced Interactive Executive (AIX) operating system.

With reference now to **Figure 3**, a block diagram illustrating a data processing system is depicted in which

10 the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system **300** is an example of a client computer. Data processing system **300** employs a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) local bus architecture. Although the depicted example employs a PCI bus, other bus

15 architectures such as Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) and Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) may be used. Processor **302** and main memory **304** are connected to PCI local bus **306** through PCI bridge **308**. PCI bridge **308** also may include an integrated memory controller and cache

20 memory for processor **302**. Additional connections to PCI local bus **306** may be made through direct component interconnection or through add-in boards.

In the depicted example, local area network (LAN) adapter **310**, SCSI host bus adapter **312**, and expansion bus

25 interface **314** are connected to PCI local bus **306** by direct component connection. In contrast, audio adapter **316**, graphics adapter **318**, and audio/video adapter **319** are connected to PCI local bus **306** by add-in boards inserted into expansion slots. Expansion bus interface **314**

30 provides a connection for a keyboard and mouse adapter **320**, modem **322**, and additional memory **324**. Small computer system interface (SCSI) host bus adapter **312** provides a

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connection for hard disk drive **326**, tape drive **328**, and CD-ROM drive **330**. Typical PCI local bus implementations will support three or four PCI expansion slots or add-in connectors.

5   An operating system runs on processor **302** and is used to coordinate and provide control of various components within data processing system **300** in **Figure 3**. The operating system may be a commercially available operating system, such as Windows 2000, which is available from

10 Microsoft Corporation. An object oriented programming system such as Java may run in conjunction with the operating system and provide calls to the operating system from Java programs or applications executing on data processing system **300**. "Java" is a trademark of Sun

15 Microsystems, Inc. Instructions for the operating system, the object-oriented operating system, and applications or programs are located on storage devices, such as hard disk drive **326**, and may be loaded into main memory **304** for execution by processor **302**.

20   Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware in **Figure 3** may vary depending on the implementation. Other internal hardware or peripheral devices, such as flash ROM (or equivalent nonvolatile memory) or optical disk drives and the like, may be used

25 in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted in **Figure 3**. Also, the processes of the present invention may be applied to a multiprocessor data processing system.

    As another example, data processing system **300** may

30 be a stand-alone system configured to be bootable without relying on some type of network communication interface, whether or not data processing system **300** comprises some

type of network communication interface. As a further example, data processing system **300** may be a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) device, which is configured with ROM and/or flash ROM in order to provide non-volatile

5 memory for storing operating system files and/or user-generated data.

The depicted example in **Figure 3** and above-described examples are not meant to imply architectural limitations. For example, data processing system **300**

10 also may be a notebook computer or hand held computer in addition to taking the form of a PDA. Data processing system **300** also may be a kiosk or a Web appliance.

Figure 4 is an exemplary block diagram illustrating the data flow among the primary components of the present

15 invention. As shown in **Figure 4**, the client device **410** includes a proposed tax change update device **412**, a browser device **413**, an estimated tax liability determination device **414**, a financial database **415**, and an electronic mail device **416**. The tax policy server **420**

20 includes proposed tax code change data **425** representing proposed tax legislation. The elements **412-416** and **425** may be implemented as hardware devices, software resident on the client device **410** and tax policy server **420**, respectively, or as a combination of hardware and

25 software.

The client device **410** communicates with the tax policy server **420** via the network **405** in a manner generally known in the art. For example, the client device **410** may make use of the TCP/IP suite of Internet

30 protocols for communicating with the tax policy server **420**.

A user of the client device **410** may enter a request

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for proposed tax code changes via the proposed tax change
update device **412** which is associated with the browser
device **413**. The proposed tax change update device **412**
may be, for example, a part of the browser device **413**, a

5 plug-in device to the browser device **413**, or may be a
separate device in communication with the browser device
413. The proposed tax change update device **412** receives
the user input and generates a request for tax change
data from the tax policy server **420**. The proposed tax

10 change update device **412** then transmits the request,
using an appropriate communication protocol, via the
network **405** to the tax policy server **420**.

The tax policy server **420** receives the request for
the proposed tax change data, identifies the proposed tax

15 change data **425** corresponding to the request, and
transmits the proposed tax change data **425** to the client
device **410**. The proposed tax change data **425** is
preferably in a format that is recognizable and useable
by the estimated tax liability determination device **414**.

20 However, the present invention may receive the proposed
tax change data **425** in any format and reformat the
proposed tax change data **425** in the proposed tax change
update device **412** so that it is in a proper format for
use by the estimated tax liability determination device

25 **414**.

The proposed tax change data **425** received by the
proposed tax change update device **412** may be imported
into the estimated tax liability determination device **414**
and used as a basis for calculating an estimated tax

30 liability for the user. The estimated tax liability
determination device **414** may apply the proposed tax

change data **425** along with the unchanged tax code to
financial data obtained from financial database **415** to
calculate the user's estimated tax liability based on the
proposed tax legislation. Alternatively, the necessary
5   user financial information may be input by the user via
an input device associated with the client device **410**.

Once the financial data for the user is obtained and
the proposed tax change data **425** is imported, the
estimated tax liability determination device **414** may
10   calculate an estimated tax liability for the user based
on the proposed tax legislation as it is represented in
the downloaded proposed tax change data **425**. The
calculation of a tax liability based on financial data
and a currently existing tax code is generally known in
15   the art. Software programs, such as TurboTax™, are
widely known for their ability to prompt users for
financial information and then using that financial
information to calculate an amount of taxes or refund
owed.

20   The estimated tax liability determination device **414**
may make use of a tax liability calculation engine,
similar to TurboTax™ or the like, to perform the specific
calculation of the tax liability. However, the present
invention updates the data representing the tax code
25   within the tax liability calculation engine based on the
downloaded proposed tax change data prior to calculating
the tax liability in order to obtain an estimated tax
liability under the proposed tax legislation.

The estimated tax liability calculated by the
30   estimated tax liability determination device **414** may then
be compared to prior tax return information stored in the
financial database **415** to determine a change in tax

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liability for the user. Thus, if a user paid $10,000 in taxes in the year 2000 and the proposed tax legislation would cause the user to pay $13,000 in taxes in the year, an estimated change in tax liability of +$3000 is

5   calculated.

Based on the estimated change in the tax liability determined by the estimated tax liability determination device **414**, a user may decide whether or not he/she is in favor of the proposed tax legislation. The user may then

10 enter a command into the client device **410** instructing the estimated tax liability determination device **414** to generate an electronic mail message to be sent to one or more parties indicating either the user's support or disfavor of the proposed tax legislation.

15 In response to receiving the command to generate the electronic mail message, the estimated tax liability determination device **414** may communicate with an electronic mail device **416** to construct an electronic mail message. The estimated tax liability determination

20 device **414** may construct the electronic mail message by issuing a command to the electronic mail device **416** to create a new electronic mail message, insert specific electronic mail message addresses, and then insert a standardized electronic mail message based on whether the

25 user is in favor of the proposed tax legislation.

For example, the estimated tax liability determination device **414** may instruct the electronic mail device **416** to create a new mail message and insert into the "To" field the electronic mail addresses for the

30 proponent of the proposed tax legislation, the user's elected representatives, and/or the regulatory body responsible for collection of the tax. The various

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electronic mail messages may be stored in the estimated
tax liability determination device **414**, may be downloaded
from the tax policy server **420** with the proposed tax
change data **425**, entered by the user, or any combination
5   of the above.

The standardized electronic mail message may be text
data stored in the estimated tax liability determination
device **414** which is pasted into an electronic mail
message, for example. The particular text will be
10 dependent on whether the user is for or against the
proposed tax legislation. Thus, for example, if the user
is for the proposed tax legislation, the text of the
electronic mail message may be:

15   To Whom it May Concern:
        I have reviewed the proposed tax legislation and
        have determined that it will benefit me by reducing
        my tax burden by $_____ per year at my current
        financial status. As a result, I wish to inform you
20   of my support for this proposed legislation.

Alternatively, if the user is against the proposed
tax legislation, the text of the electronic mail message
may be:
25

        To Whom it May Concern:
        I have reviewed the proposed tax legislation and
        have determined that it will increase my tax burden
        by $_____ per year at my current financial status.
30   As a result, I wish to inform you that I do not
        support the passing of this proposed legislation.

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The blank dollar amounts in the standardized text messages may be automatically filled by the estimated tax liability determination device **414** with the estimated change in tax liability calculated by the estimated tax 5 liability determination device **414**. Once the electronic mail message is created, the estimated tax liability determination device **414** may issue a command to the electronic mail device **416** to send the electronic mail message to the entities identified in the "To" fields. 10 The electronic mail message is then routed through the network **405**, in a manner generally known in the art, to the tax policy maker systems **430** included in the addresses in the "To" field of the electronic mail message.

15 Once received by the tax policy maker systems **430**, the estimated change in tax liability included in the electronic mail message may be extracted and accumulated with other estimated changes in tax liability obtained from other electronic mail messages from other users. In 20 this way, a proponent, supporter, or other interested entity, of the proposed tax legislation may be informed of the general affect of the proposed legislation on users. In this way, changes to the proposed legislation may be made to address concerns of the users and/or data 25 in support of the proposed legislation may be obtained for use by the various interested entities.

While **Figure 4** depicts the elements **412** and **414-416** as being resident in association with a client device **410**, the invention is not limited to such an 30 architecture. Rather, the present invention may be embodied in a system in which one or more of the proposed tax change update device **412**, the estimated tax liability

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determination device **414**, the financial database **415**, and the electronic mail device **416** may be located remotely from the client device **410** such as on tax policy server **420**, a proxy server (not shown) or otherwise distributed

5   in network data processing system **100** of **Figure 1**, for example.

For example, the client device **410** may make use of the browser device **413** to retrieve one or more web pages from servers of the network **405**. These web pages may be

10 associated with one or more of the tax change update device **412**, the estimated tax liability determination device **414**, the financial database **415**, and the electronic mail device **416**. The user may enter information and requests via fields in the web pages and

15 receive results of estimated tax liability calculations in the form of additional Hypertext Transfer Markup Language (HTML) documents downloaded to the client device **410**. Thus, a user of the client device **410** may access the same functionality of the various devices **412**,

20 **414-416** via a local browser device **413** and web pages associated with the devices **412**, **414-416**.

Furthermore, the financial data and estimated tax liability data used by the present invention may be maintained entirely in the client device or may be shared

25 with a remotely located server that performs the functions of the present invention. In this way, if the data is kept at the client device, privacy of the user may be secured. Alternatively, if the data is shared with a remotely located server, the transfer of the data

30 to the server may be performed over a secure connection to minimize the possibility of interception by third parties.

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In addition, while the above embodiments describe the invention in terms of a user initiating the sending of an electronic mail message to appropriate parties associated with the proposed tax legislation, the present

5   invention does not require the user to initiate the sending of the electronic mail message. Rather, the present invention may automatically generate and send the electronic mail message based on the results of the determination of the estimated change in tax liability.

10 That is, for example, the present invention may assume that a user whose tax liability increases will not be in favor of the proposed tax legislation and therefore, generates and sends an electronic mail message accordingly. Of course, a user's confirmation may be

15 solicited before the message is actually sent.

The process described above with regard to **Figure 4** may be performed for any number of proposed tax legislations. Thus, the proposed tax change data **425** downloaded from the tax policy server **420** may contain

20 data for a number of different proposed tax legislations. The present invention may determine the estimated tax liability under each of the proposed tax legislations, report the results to the user, and automatically send electronic mail messages to appropriate parties based on

25 the user's favor or disfavor of the proposed legislation.

Figure 5 is a flowchart outlining an exemplary operation of the present invention. As shown in **Figure 5**, the operation starts by sending a request for proposed tax code update data to the tax policy server (step **510**).

30 The proposed tax code update data is received (step **520**) and the financial information for the user is retrieved (step **530**). The estimated tax liability of the user under

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the proposed tax code is calculated and compared to a previous tax return of the user to determine an estimated change in tax liability of the user (step **540**). The estimated change in tax liability for the user is output

5   (step **550**) and it is determined whether to send an electronic mail message based on the estimated change in tax liability for the user (step **560**). If an electronic mail message is to be sent, the electronic mail message is generated and sent to the tax policy maker system (step

10   **570**). Otherwise, the operation ends.

Thus, the present invention provides a mechanism by which a user's estimated tax liability under proposed changes to the tax code can be calculated and compared to previous year's tax liability. Based on this comparison,

15   an estimated change in tax liability may be determined so that the user may be informed of how the proposed tax legislation will affect him/her. An electronic mail message may then be generated and sent to proponents of the proposed tax legislation, the user's elected

20   representatives, and appropriate regulatory agencies in order to voice the user's support or non-support of the proposed tax legislation.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully

25   functioning data processing system, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in the form of a computer readable medium of instructions and a variety of forms and that the present invention

30   applies equally regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media

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include recordable-type media, such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a RAM, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog communications links, wired or wireless communications

5   links using transmission forms, such as, for example, radio frequency and light wave transmissions. The computer readable media may take the form of coded formats that are decoded for actual use in a particular data processing system.

10   The description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, and is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in

15   the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention, the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments with various modifications as are

20   suited to the particular use contemplated.